

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 remain in this application, claims 1 and 7-19 are canceled, and new claims 20-25 are added. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Each independent claim previously appearing in this application was rejected as anticipated by or unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,431,299 to Asche et al. As far as this rejection may be considered applicable to new independent claim 20 appearing above, reconsideration is requested.

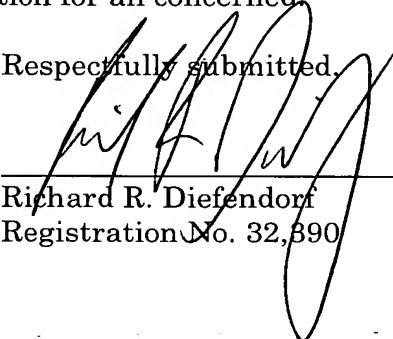
Attention is initially directed to the colored versions of Figures 1 and 2 appended to this Reply. Two zones are maintained in the engine compartment, namely a warmer zone, in the engine area, and a cooler zone, in the transmission area. This results in effective forced cooling of the transmission, which is located in the rear of the vehicle, without an oil/water, oil, or air heat exchanger. The cooler zone air cools the low-lying units or components significantly better than warmer air from the upper zone. For this purpose, cool ambient air from under the traveling vehicle is introduced through large inlets in the undercarriage directly into the front of the installation. This cool air displaces the warm air from the hot engine block area flowing in from above up to a certain degree. Two zones in the installation space are thus created with relatively warm or relatively cold air. The amount of cooling air fed from under the vehicle determines the position or height of the zone separating surface, designated TR. To selectively cool a rear axle differential, a small inflow channel 12 in the undercarriage may be used. Air flows out of the unit jointly from both zones into a large downward space to the rear.

The Asche et al. patent shows conventional cooling of a drive unit in which a specific differentiation between warm and cold zones are not found. Separation of these zones according to the invention into a cooler zone in the transmission area and a warmer zone in the engine area as new claim 20 reflects is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Asche et al. patent, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is patentable. The rest of the claims remaining in and added to this application depend on claim 20 and are considered patentable as well.

This application is now in allowable condition for reasons discussed above. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

November 3, 2005



Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,390

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD:rd